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Rusk, McNamara Criticize Fulbright Hits 'Show'

Sen. J. William Fulbright (D-Ark.) said yesterday that the Administration, in explaining its policies to the people, "has decided to substitute Meet the Press for appearances before congressional committees."

The chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee commented to reporters about Sunday's joint television appearances by the Secretaries of State and Defense.

"These are more or less controlled exhibitions . . . a very bad practice," said Fulbright. He has tried for some time to bring Secretary of State Dean Rusk before an open session of his Committee to discuss U.S. policies in the Far East.

Fulbright said that television appearances offer limited time—"most of it taken up with commercials"—and rarely provide an opportunity for questioning in depth. He said the Administration "can do everything except say to (Meet the Press moderator Lawrence) Spivak what the questions will be." Fulbright added that Spivak "knows he'll be dropped from the list" of favored programmers if the questions are too tough.